

Indiana Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program One Step Closer To Federal Approval

On November 5, 2007, the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) posted the Notice of Availability of the Proposed Finding Document, Environmental Assessment, and Finding of No Significant Impact on Approval for Indiana's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program in the Federal Register.

The Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program was established by Congress in 1990 to encourage better coordination between state coastal programs and water quality experts to reduce polluted runoff. The Program is unique in that it establishes a set of management measures for states to use in controlling polluted runoff from six main sources: forestry, agriculture, urban/rural areas, marinas and recreational boating, hydromodification (shoreline and stream channel modification), and wetlands and riparian areas. These measures are to be backed by enforceable state policies and actions.

All states with approved coastal management programs are required to develop and implement a coastal nonpoint pollution control program. Indiana's Lake Michigan Coastal Program (LMCP) was approved in 2002.

Indiana submitted its Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program document, which identifies the programs and enforceable authorities that Indiana will use to implement the program, to NOAA and EPA for review in 2005. NOAA and EPA have proposed to approve, with conditions, Indiana's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program.

"This is exciting news," said Joe Exl, Coastal Nonpoint Coordinator with the Lake Michigan Coastal Program. "We've already begun to address some of the programmatic gaps identified by NOAA and EPA to receive full program approval. The soon to be released Indiana Clean Marina Program is one of those measures."

The proposed Findings Document, Environmental Assessment, and Finding of No Significant Impact can be found on the NOAA website at <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/assessments/welcome.html>. A copy of the Federal Register notice with additional information and instructions for comments is available on the LMCP website. Individuals or organizations wishing to submit comments should do so by December 5, 2007.